



**Prepared for Swift Current Corps of The Salvation Army, March 2013.
By Captain Michael Ramsay**

Three Weeks of Passion.

In this abbreviated Bible Study we will be looking at the *Holy Week*, as John records it. Holy week is essentially the days before and including Jesus' death and resurrection. In Week Three, we will look at Jesus' Resurrection (John 20-21) – the central part of the New Testament and all of Christianity. In Week Two, we will examine Jesus' legal trials and state execution (John 18-19). Here in Week One, we will look at Jesus' triumphal entry and what that means and what it meant. For more information on these events, I encourage you to attend the Sunday Meetings here at The Salvation Army leading up to Easter as well as the Good Friday ecumenical church service at the Comp school. There are other good resources available at www.sheepspeak.com

Week 1: The Triumphal Entry.

Read John 12:1-11

John 12:1-8

1. What was the issue (or issues) at the heart of the exchange about the perfume?
2. Are there any equivalent discussions that would apply to our world today in this country?
3. Why did Jesus say that “the poor will always be with you, but you do not always have me?”
4. What would be an example of spending money for something more important (given only the parameters of the text) than the poor?
5. What would be a counter example?

John 12:9-11

1. What happened with Lazarus (cf. John 11:9-50)? What are the mentioned ramifications of this?

Read John 12:12-19

1. Watch *Palm Sunday Donkey Riding* by Sarah-Grace Ramsay.
(http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=i0N2OSIOBqk) What is the significance of each of the following?
 - a. Jerusalem:
 - b. Coats on the ground:
 - c. King:
 - d. Palm Branches:
 - e. Hosanna:
 - f. Prophecy:
 - g. Donkey:
2. Picture this scene with us today: Canada currently has armed forces from the paramount superpower of the 21st Century stationed here. We consider the US our ally. Imagine that a popular Canadian figure comes riding into Ottawa on the anniversary of the War of 1812 or some other historic conflict with the Americans and thousands of people go before him waving big maple leaves, running up to get his autograph, singing songs of Canadian independence, and holding signs and banners proclaiming freedom for the political prisoners, and socialist provisions for those on welfare and in the hospital. And imagine that some of the people around when all of this is happening are known agitators against US hegemony.
 - a. How would the US feel about this?
 - b. How would our government feel about this?

- c. Now can you imagine if this happened in the Middle East today: how would regional governments react? How would our government feel about this? How would the Americans feel about this?

 - d. How do you think that the Judean leaders and the Roman officials would feel about this triumphal entry?
3. Comment on this statement: Jesus' advent isn't merely spiritual; it is political and as such it should affect every aspect of our lives (cf. Matthew 25:31:ff. and Luke 6:20-49)

Read John 12:20-28

1. What do Jesus comments in Verses 25-26 mean?

2. Do these comments still apply today? How do they or why do they not apply?

Read John 12:28-36a

1. What is the significance of the voice from heaven?

2. Who is the ruler of this world?

3. What does it mean that the ruler of this world shall be cast out?

4. How can Jesus both die and live forever?

5. What is a 'son of the light' and what is the significance of light in John's gospel (cf. 1:1-13)?

Read John 12:36b-43

1. Why do some not believe?
2. What does Verse 40 mean?
3. Verses 42 and 43 contain a sad comment. Are we ever tempted to act like this?
4. What happens if we deny Christ?

Read John 12:44-13:1

1. What is Jesus' relationship here mentioned to God?
2. What happens to those who hear Jesus' teaching and yet blatantly disobey them (Cf. Matthew 10:33)?
3. What is the blessing of obedience to God's commandment?
4. How does Jesus feel about his followers?

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Palm Sunday Donkey Riding*
By Sarah-Grace Ramsay

Were you ever in Jerus'lem,
Throwing cloaks on the ground,
Awaiting a King with a golden crown,
Riding on a Donkey

Hey, ho! Away he goes!
Donkey riding, donkey riding
Hey, ho! Away he goes!
Riding on a donkey

Were you ever on the streets,
Where it's always fine and warm,
Waving palm branches for the Son,
Riding on a Donkey

Hey, ho! Away he goes!
Donkey riding, donkey riding
Hey, ho! Away he goes!
Riding on a donkey

Were you ever along the road,
Where the folks all shout 'Hosanna!'
Jesus fulfils the prophecy,
Riding on a donkey

Hey, ho! Away he goes!
Donkey riding, donkey riding
Hey, ho! Away he goes!
Riding on a donkey

*Sung to the tune of 'Donkey Riding'

Three Weeks of Passion.

In this abbreviated Bible Study we will be looking at the *Holy Week*, as John records it. Holy week is essentially the days before and including Jesus' death and resurrection. In Week Three, we will look at Jesus' Resurrection (John 20-21) – the central part of the New Testament and all of Christianity. In Week Two, we will examine Jesus' legal trials and state execution (John 18-19). In Week One, we looked at Jesus' triumphal entry and what that means and what it meant. For more information on these events, I encourage you to attend the Sunday Meetings here at The Salvation Army leading up to Easter as well as the Good Friday ecumenical church service at the Comp school. There are other good resources available at www.sheepspeak.com

Week 2: The Execution

Read John 13:36-38, 18:1-14

1. Why did Jesus not resist arrest? (v.11, v.14)
2. Why did they fall to the ground (v.6) when Jesus spoke?
3. Why, according to John, did they let Jesus' disciples go and not arrest them as well?
4. Why did Peter attack the High Priest's servant?
5. Who arrested Jesus? To whom did they deliver him for trial first? Why?

Read John 18:19-24

1. What was the interrogation about?
2. Why did a (Judean, see v.12) police officer strike Jesus?
3. To whom did they deliver him for trial second? Why?

Read Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:23-26; John 13:36-38, 18:15-18, 25-27

1. What happens if we deny (or are ashamed of) Christ?
2. How and why did Peter (ashamedly) deny knowing Jesus?
3. Are we ever tempted to do this? Why or why not?

* For Peter's restoration see John 21:15-19

Read John 18:28-19:22

1. To whom is Jesus delivered for his third and final trial? Why?
2. Does Pilate want to hear this case? Why or why not?
3. With what is Jesus charged?

John 18:38-40

4. After interviewing Jesus and still not wanting to rule on this case, what does he do (v.39)?
5. What does Bar-Abbas meant? Who was Barabbas?

John 19:1-12

6. When the Judean religious leaders still do not drop their case against Jesus, what does Pilate do next? Does this satisfy the Judeans?

7. Why was Pilate afraid and why did he try to release Jesus?

8. What did the Judeans say to convince Pilate to order Jesus' state execution? Why might this work?

John 19:13-22

9. Read the text below and comment on the significance of what is happening here:

In effect the Jewish leaders said to Pilate that if you do not give the orders to crucify Jesus we will tell your god-king Caesar that you are disloyal to him; so Pilate responds by saying to these Jews that if you want me to crucify Jesus, you must deny your God-King. When Governor Pilate got the Jewish religious leaders to confess that "We have no king but Caesar", that is exactly what they were doing – denying YHWH, the LORD, God.

This is Passover. Every Passover the Jewish people concluded the great Hallel (Psalms. 113–118) with this prayer: 'From everlasting to everlasting thou art God; beside thee we have no king, redeemer, or saviour; no liberator, deliverer, provider; none who takes pity in every time of distress or trouble. We have no king but thee.' The Jewish leaders here are not only indirectly disowning God by rejecting Jesus in this way but they are also openly, actively rejecting God in their action of disowning Jesus (cf. John 1:11).

The Jewish Chief Priests and Officers want this big problem of Jesus removed from their lives so much that they are willing to disavow God in order to do it.¹

¹ Captain Michael Ramsay, *John 18:28-19:16: Pilates at 6am* Presented to Swift Current Corps of The Salvation Army, 03 Feb 2013. Available on-line: <http://sheepspeaks.blogspot.ca/2013/02/john-1828-1916-pilates-at-6am.html>

10. What is the significance of Pilate's telling the Judeans, 'here is your king?'
11. Who do the Judeans say is their king?
12. How is the Judean religious leaders' denial of God here the same and/or different from Peter's denial of Christ? (John 18:12-14, 25-27)

Read Psalm 22 (see appendix including prophecies and fulfilment)

1. What is the title of this psalm?
2. Why might Jesus call out the title of this psalm on the cross?
3. Can/will God ever forsake the Son (see Psalm 22:24, Hebrews 5:7)?
4. Is the Trinity divisible? (See TSA doctrine 3)

Read John 19:23-37

1. What are some of the prophecies fulfilled in these verses?

Read John 19:38-42

1. Who took Jesus' body (see John 3)?
2. Where did they place him? When? Why?

Psalm 22: My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me

For the director of music. To the tune of "The Doe of the Morning." A psalm of David.

¹ **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***(Matthew 27:36, Mark 15:34)*

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?

² My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.

³ **Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;***(1 Peter 3:22, Mark 16:19, Acts 2:33, 7:36, Romans 8:34, Ephesians 1:20, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:13, 12:2,; see also Matthew 26:64, Mark 14:62, Luke 22:69)*

you are the one Israel praises*(Mathew 21:4-9, Mark 11:7-10, John 12:12-19).*

⁴ In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.

⁵ **To you they cried out and were saved;***(Mathew 21:4-9, Mark 11:7-10, John 12:12-19)*
in you they trusted and were not put to shame*(Romans 9:33)*

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people*(Matthew 16:21).*

⁷ **All who see me mock me;***(Matthew 27:41; Mark 15:31; Luke 23:36)*

they hurl insults, shaking their heads*(Matthew 27:39, 44; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:39)*

⁸ **"He trusts in the LORD," they say,**
"let the LORD rescue him.

Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him."*(Matthew 3:17, 27:43)*

⁹ **Yet you brought me out of the womb;**
you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.

¹⁰ **From birth I was cast on you;**
from my mother's womb you have been my God.*(Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-50, 2:1-7)*

¹¹ Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

¹² Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

¹³ Roaring lions that tear their prey
open their mouths wide against me.

¹⁴ **I am poured out like water,**
and all my bones are out of joint.*(John 19:31-37)*

My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted within me.

¹⁵ **My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,**
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;*(John 19:28)*
you lay me in the dust of death.*(John 19:38-42)*

- ¹⁶ Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.*(John 20:25)*
- ¹⁷ **All my bones are on display;**
people stare and gloat over me.*(John 19:16-22)*
- ¹⁸ **They divide my clothes among them**
and cast lots for my garment.*(Matthew 27:35, Mark 9:12,15:24, Luke 23:34, John 19:24)*
- ¹⁹ But you, LORD, do not be far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to help me.
- ²⁰ Deliver me from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dogs.
- ²¹ Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.
- ²² **I will declare your name to my people;**
in the assembly I will praise you.*(Hebrews 2:12)*
- ²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honour him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!
- ²⁴ **For he has not despised or scorned**
the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help.*(Hebrews 5:7 – God did not forsake Jesus!)*
- ²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.
- ²⁶ **The poor will eat and be satisfied;**
those who seek the LORD will praise him—
may your hearts live forever!*(Luke 4:18, 6:20, 7:22, etc.)*
- ²⁷ **All the ends of the earth**
will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him,
- ²⁸ **for dominion belongs to the LORD**
and he rules over the nations.*(Matthew 28:16-20)*
- ²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—
those who cannot keep themselves alive.*(Revelation 14:11)*
- ³⁰ Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord.
- ³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it!*(Luke 18:31, 24:34; John 19:30)*

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Week 3: The Resurrection

Read John 20:1-11

1. Who is the first one of Jesus' followers (disciples) mentioned at the tomb?
 - a. What did she notice?
 - b. What did she think?
 - c. What did she do?
2. What did the other town disciples do when they heard from Mary?
3. Why were they running?
4. What did they see when they got to the tomb?
5. What did they believe?
6. What does it mean that they believed but did not understand?
7. Are there occasions when we can believe but not quite understand?

8. What did the disciples do after they believed? Why?

9. Why did Mary not go home and why was she crying?

Read John 20:10-18

1. What did Mary do as she was crying?

a. What did she notice when she looked in the tomb?

b. Who all was in the tomb?

2. What did Mary think had happened to Jesus?

3. What did Jesus say to Mary?

a. Why was Mary not to hold onto Jesus? What does it mean here to 'hold onto' Jesus?

4. What did Mary do after her encounter with Jesus?

a. What should we do after we encounter Jesus?

b. Comment on the post-resurrection role of women in ministry?

Read John 20:19-23

1. Why were the disciples afraid of the Jews?

- a. What did they do because they were afraid?
 - b. Who were these Jews of whom they were fearful?
2. Why does it mention that Jesus appeared behind locked doors?
 3. How did they recognize Jesus?
 4. What did Jesus say?
 5. What did Jesus do?
 6. Is this the first appearance of the Holy Spirit?
 - a. What is the significance the disciples' reception of the Holy Spirit?
 - b. How does this compare and contrast the disciples' reception of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2?
 - c. What is the significance of our receiving the Holy Spirit?

Read John 20:24-31

1. What was Thomas' response to the news that other disciples have seen Jesus?
 - a. Do we, or people we know, ever have this same response?

2. Why does it mention that Jesus appeared behind locked doors?
3. How did Thomas recognize Jesus?
 - a. Why does Jesus have scars?
 - b. What do our resurrected bodies look like? (See Romans 8:11, Philippians 3:21, 1 John 3:2, 1 Corinthians 6:14, 1 Corinthians 15)
4. What does verse 29 mean? How does that relate to verses 8 and 9?
5. Why are these events recorded in the book of John?
6. Do you believe?

Read John 21:1-15

1. How many times has it been recorded in John that Jesus appeared to his disciples?
2. Where are his disciples when Jesus appears to them here?
3. What are his disciples doing when he appears to them here? Why?
4. How did the disciples recognize Jesus?
 - a. Why would they have dared to ask, 'who are you?'
 - b. Did they recognize him from his earlier appearance to them? Why or why not?

Read John 21:15-35 (John 13:36-38, 18:15-18, 25-27)

1. What does Jesus ask Peter in v. 15? What does he tell him to do in v.15?

2. What does Jesus ask Peter in v. 16? What does he tell him to do in v.16?

3. What does Jesus ask Peter in v. 17? What does he tell him to do in v.17?

4. What is the significance of asking a similar question 3 times?

5. What is the significance of the progression of (the differences between) the questions and commands?

6. After Jesus tells Peter he will die as he follows Jesus, what does he tell/ask Peter to do (v.19)?
 - a. Are you willing to follow Jesus through the grave?

7. What does Peter ask about John?
 - a. What is Jesus response to this question?

 - b. Do we ever ask similar questions? What then will be Jesus' response to us?

8. What is the purpose of the comments in verses 24 and 25?

9. How does this apply to us today?

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Doctrines of The Salvation Army

1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God; and that they only constitute the Divine rule of Christian faith and practice.
2. We believe that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.
3. We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead - the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost - undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.
4. We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.
5. We believe that our first parents were created in a state of innocency, but by their disobedience they lost their purity and happiness; and that in consequence of their fall all men have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has, by His suffering and death, made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.
7. We believe that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are necessary to salvation.
8. We believe that we are justified by grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.
9. We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.
10. We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
11. We believe in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgment at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.